

Minutes  
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee  
June 12, 2006

Committee Members Present: John Carr, Chair, Dan Hughes, Matthew Johnston, Ryan Barth, Kim Schwarzkopf, Keith Stobel

Staff: Susan Golub and Bill Keller, Director of the Associated Recreation Council

Guests: Fleur Larson and Holly Sheehan of Skate Like a Girl, Jelani Jackson and Joyce Moty from the Citywide Skatepark Advisory Task Force

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

**Public Comment – Pre-Meeting** There were none.

**Feature Discussion: Skatepark Events and Outreach**

John Carr explained that once the City has a series of skateparks, the skaters want to have programming in these facilities, similar to programming that occurs in other park facilities. He and SPAC have envisioned 3 types of programming:

- Community outreach and advocacy – the Ballard skatepark open house organized by Scott Shinn is an example of this type of programming;
- Skateboarding fun events, such as jams and contests; and
- Educational programming, such as the teaching clinics conducted by Skate Like a Girl.

Bill Keller, the Director of the Associated Recreation Council (ARC), described ARC and its relationship with Parks. ARC's main role is to provide programming for Seattle Parks and Recreation through a public/private partnership. ARC has 1,200 people working in over 50 locations, with a \$10 million revenue stream. ARC is the organizing vehicle for 37 separate advisory councils and "Friends of" groups and provides capital and fiscal sponsorship for many additional organizations. The ARC Board has discussed skateparks and skateboard programming. They are the fiscal sponsors for Boarders4Parks which is developing a skatepark at Dahl Playfield, and they are helping with the fund raising for that project.

A challenge ARC faces regarding skateboarding projects is insurance. ARC has 2 pools of insurance: liability and property. Property insurance is covered, but they have not found anyone to cover liability insurance for skatepark programming. ARC has received liability insurance for horseback riding and rock climbing and is working on getting the same for skateboarding. In response to a question from Matthew Johnston, Mr. Keller stated that where once rowing and sailing could not get liability insurance, they are now covered. John Carr suggested that perhaps SPAC could help with the insurance problem and asked Mr. Keller to provide SPAC with a list of information he might need to provide to insurance companies, such as the incidence of injuries and will look into the question of whether some jurisdictions are self-insuring skatepark programs.

Regarding skateboard programming, Mr. Keller said ARC preferred programs that:

- are financially reasonable (affordable);
- provide learning continuity – pathways of programming that move through ages and ability levels; and
- are safe.

### Skate like a Girl

Fleur Larson and Holly Sheehan from the Skate like a Girl organization gave a power point presentation describing the skateboarding clinics and camps they offer. Skate like a Girl is a small, grass roots organization that started 6 years ago in Olympia and now is expanding its programs to teach skateboarding to girls in the Greater Seattle area. Clinics and camps are scheduled for this summer in Kirkland, Redmond and Marginal Way. Skate like a Girl looks forward to working closely with SPAC to develop programs for Seattle skateparks.

### Project Updates

River City Skatepark: River City Skatepark is to be located on in South Park on Cloverdale near the I-99 on-ramp. It will be an 11,000 square foot skatepark, developed by a volunteer organization on property donated by a non-profit. Kim Schwarzkopf reported that surveying and geo-technical studies are underway. They have raised \$70,000 towards a goal of \$166,000, with Grindline donating design and construction.

Lower Woodland Skatepark: Susan Golub reported that the Green Lake Neighbors Association has appealed the Declaration of Non-significance issued for the Lower Woodland skatepark. The primary issue of the appeal is the question of whether the project should move forward while a Citywide skatepark planning process is underway. A hearing before the City's Hearing Examiner will take place in September. The project was scheduled to go out for bid in July, but the appeal will delay this. There was a discussion about the cost of the delay, especially in light of construction cost inflation that the City is experiencing.

Seattle Center Skatepark Replacement: John Carr reported that, in response to the letter SPACC received from Acting Seattle Center Director, Robert Nellums, SPACC is requesting a meeting with the City Council's Parks Education Libraries and Labor Committee, Seattle Center and SPACC. He has asked City Councilmember Della's office to schedule the meeting, and/or a walk through of the Seattle Center. In addition, John will be meeting with a representative from the Vulcan Corporation to talk about the possibility of locating a skatepark in Denny Playfield, property that is owned by Vulcan.

### Build Your Own Skatepark Recipe

SPAC members discussed the draft guidebook they are preparing to provide citizens with the steps needed to build a skatepark. Assignments for providing additional information were made for contact information, the grants list, and fiscal sponsor information. Matthew Johnston is continuing to refine the fund raising and community support sections.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.